

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 15, 2009, the Office noted that claims 12-20 were pending and rejected claims 12-20. Claims 12, 15 and 20 have been amended, claim 13 has been canceled, and, thus, in view of the foregoing, claims 12 and 14-20 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections and objections are traversed below.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 12, 13, 15 and 20 stand objected to for informalities. In particular, the Office asserts that the term "tabular laser beam" is unclear or flat surface of the tabular laser beam is unclear.

The claims have been amended to recite "tabular **shaped** laser beam." (emphasis added) The Applicant submits that a tabular shaped laser beam is supported the Specification and that no new matter is believed to have been added.

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Horimai, U.S. Patent No. 7,002,891 in view of Ishi, U.S. Patent No. 4,012,108. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the rejection with an argument.

The Applicant has amended claim 12 to include the

features of claim 13.

Accordingly, "it is possible to contain a space occupied by the optical path of the plate-like laser beam and a space occupied by the one-dimensional spatial modulating device for spatial-modulating the plate-like laser beam, in a space which spreads relatively thinly along the recording surface. As a result, it is possible to dispose the laser light source, the converting optical system, the one-dimensional spatial modulating device, and the recording optical system of the present invention, in a relatively narrow space surrounding the recording medium which spreads flatly, such as an optical disc which can be hardly miniaturized or cannot be miniaturized, while the record information is modulated by using the one-dimensional spatial modulation, on a hologram recorder and a player or the like, for example. As result of this, it is possible to miniaturize and thin the entire information recording apparatus which include the space for containing the recording medium." (See ¶¶ 0016 and 0017 of the printed publication version of the Specification.)

On page 4 of the Official Action, it is asserted that Horimai discloses "the optical path of the reference light and the tabular shaped laser beam are located side-by-side," as in amended claim 12 (formerly claim 13).

Horimai appears to teach "the optical path of the reference light and the optical path of the information light are located side-by-side perpendicular to the recording surface, as viewed from the recording surface. (See Horimai Fig. 1)

However, Horimai does not disclose *the optical path of the reference light and the tabular shaped laser beam are located side-by-side along the recording surface, as viewed from the recording surface.* As such, there is significant difference between the present invention and Horimai as to the relationship among the optical path of the reference light, the optical path of the tabular shaped laser beam (i.e. the information light) and the recording surface. Owing to this feature of the present invention, "it is possible to contain not only the space occupied by the optical path of the plate-like laser beam, but also the space occupied by the optical path of the split reference light, in the space which spreads relatively thinly along the recording surface. Therefore, it is possible to miniaturize and thin the entire information recording apparatus while a hologram optical system for splitting the reference light from signal light is adopted," as in discussed in ¶ 0025 of the Specification.

The Office does not assert and the Applicants have not found that Ishi or Horimai and Ishi disclose such a feature. Ishii likewise does not disclose in the same manner the relationship among the optical path of the reference light, the optical path of the tabular shaped laser beam (i.e. the information light) and the recording surface.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Horimai and Ishi, taken separately or in combination, fail to render obvious the features of claim 12 and the claims dependent therefrom.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103. It is also submitted that claims 12 and 14-20 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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